

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Sheffield Plan - Burial Provisions for muslim community
Date: 19 February 2023 19:01:13

Dear Planning Policy Team,

On behalf of Guzar-E-Habib Education Centre, I welcome the opportunity to comment on the Draft Sheffield Plan, which will undoubtedly have a transformational impact upon the city over the next 15-20 years. The emphasis being placed upon creating a city where the benefits of development are felt across all communities and the priority for the Council in delivering secure, connected, respected neighbourhoods is both commendable and much needed.

However, having examined the Draft Sheffield Plan, I was unable to see any reference to how the Plan will facilitate the development of burial provisions for communities of Sheffield at large, and for the 50, 000 strong Muslim communities, which have specific religious and pastoral requirements. Needless to say that thus far, we are grateful to Sheffield City Council in how it has responded to fulfilling this provision for communities across the city and catering for the special needs of the Muslim communities. That said, a recent report prepared by Sheffield City Council's Bereavement Services indicates only a residual 5-year supply for Muslim burial space in Shiregreen and City Road, and none at Tinsley/Darnall.

With this in mind, there is an urgent need for the Draft Sheffield Plan to recognise this strategic need for all communities and take immediate action to expand the provision for Muslim communities. To aid this process, I kindly request the following strategic areas of the Sheffield Plan are amended so that the ever depleting burial provision for Muslim communities is addressed as an urgent priority:

Part 1: Vision, Spatial Strategy, Sub-Area Policies and Site Allocations – Specific reference should be made in this section to acknowledge the important role burial provisions plays for all communities, and the continued recognition of the special religious and pastoral requirements of the Muslim communities;

Part 2: Development Management Policies and Implementation – Ensure that both Planning Policy and Development Management Policies are friendly to the creation of new burial spaces across the city, including the provision of such on Greenbelt, both on publicly and privately owned sites;

Annex A: Site Allocations – Recognise and allocate land for the creation of burial provision to meet the needs of Muslim communities residing in Sharrow, Nether Edge and Millhouses; Spital Hill, Burngreave, Firth Park/Fir Vale and Tinsley/Darnall.

The Sheffield Development Plan is a once in a generation opportunity to not only lay the foundations for transforming the city, but also to further enhance the services our local residents rely upon on a daily basis. The provision of good quality burial services and adequate future space in our cemeteries is something our local residents need in their most challenging times, but unfortunately the Sheffield Plan is silent on this important issue.

I sincerely hope that before Sheffield Plan is submitted for examination, appropriate amendments will be made along the above lines and consequential action followed through within Sheffield City council to ensure this valuable service provision is not neglected.

Yours sincerely

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